



New or Layover Roof?

When it's time to replace your roof, one of the first decisions you will need to make is whether or not you want to install the new roof over your existing roof, or if you want to tear off the old roof first. There are advantages to both approaches, and whether or not you choose to tear off your old asphalt shingles will depend on your situation.

If your existing roof is problem-free and building codes allow it, installing a layover roof can save you time, money—and a big clean up job! However there are many conditions that require the old roof to be torn off before a new roof can be installed.

Advantages of roofing over the top of the old roof, and installing a second asphalt shingle layer:

- Time is saved, because you can start the layover roof without removing the old roof.
- Money is saved because you can avoid hauling away and disposing of the old roof materials.

Advantages of tearing off the old roof and installing a single roof:

- New shingles lay flatter when installed on the sheathing, rather than over old shingles.
- A new, single roof will last longer than a layover roof (up to 20% longer).
- Tearing off the old roof provides a chance to inspect the condition of the sheathing and make repairs as needed.

The finished appearance and effectiveness of a layover roof should be considered. If the existing roof has any of the following problems, the finished roof will be unattractive and prone to leaks if a layover roof is applied:

- Peeled, curled, cupped, split or otherwise damaged shingles
- Moss growth
- Missing Shingles
- New shingles are lighter than the old shingles allowing the bumps and lines to show through the new layer.

We hope you found this information to be valuable to you when it comes to making a decision of a new roof.